

ON-SITE DISPOSAL FACILITY

The large mound on the eastern edge of the Fernald Preserve is the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF), which was constructed to support the site's environmental cleanup mission.

The OSDF is covered with a prairie grass mix that serves the dual purpose of controlling erosion and providing habitat for a variety of grassland birds and raptors.



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*a balanced approach to
waste disposition*

Fernald Preserve



The large mound on the eastern edge of the Fernald Preserve is the On-Site Disposal Facility (OSDF), which was constructed to support the site's previous environmental cleanup mission.

From 1952 to 1989, the Fernald site produced high-purity uranium products for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as the first link in America's nuclear weapons production cycle. When production operations ceased in 1989, the site's mission changed to environmental cleanup. DOE—along with the U.S. and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies, Fernald's neighbors, and surrounding communities—agreed on a cleanup strategy where small volumes of more-

radioactive waste would be shipped to off-site disposal facilities while larger volumes of material with low-level contamination would remain at Fernald and be disposed of in the OSDF.

The OSDF was completed in 2006 and contains nearly 3 million cubic yards of low-level waste consisting of 85 percent soil and 15 percent building debris. The OSDF is 800 feet wide, 3,700 feet long, and 65 feet high. A multilayer cap-and-liner system safely encapsulates the waste material. The OSDF has an engineered system for collecting and transferring leachate—water from soil and building debris in the disposal facility—to Fernald's wastewater treatment facility.

The OSDF is covered with a prairie grass mix that serves the dual purpose of controlling erosion and providing habitat for a variety of grassland birds and raptors. The performance of the OSDF is closely monitored and is not a safety threat to Fernald Preserve employees or visitors. The entire Fernald site has been remediated to cleanup standards established by site neighbors and approved by the U.S. and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies as being protective of human health and the environment.

More detailed information, including a cross-sectional model of the OSDF, is available for viewing at the exhibit area in the Fernald Preserve Visitors Center.